**Dear Equinet Members,**This Members’ Bulletin gathers **the latest European Union (EU) and international developments**. It aims to give you an **overview of relevant policy and legal developments**, as well as latest calls for interest, funding opportunities and upcoming events. We very much hope this members’ bulletin will be useful in your day-to-day work and we would be grateful if you could **disseminate it among your colleagues**. Your feedback is also greatly appreciated.



Previous Members’ Bulletin are available on the [Equinet Members’ Area](http://www.equineteurope.org/-Members-Bulletins-).

Should you have any comments or further questions, **please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Machacova, Equinet Membership and Policy Officer** ([Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org](mailto:Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org) / 0032 2 212 31 80)

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# Highlight: EU and international actions to combat violence against women

**European Commission: 2017 is the EU year of focused actions to fight violence against women**

2017 has been designated by the European Commission as the **year to combating violence against women**. Many equality bodies will be on the forefront of this work, carrying out projects aimed at developing and implementing practical and targeted information to combat violence against women, as well as awareness-raising and education activities.

€10 million were allocated to support efforts to prevent gender-based violence and victims’ support. In 2016, the European Commission opened a call for proposals for action grants to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women, under the Daphne scheme. **Three Equinet members** were accepted to implement their projects to combat violence against women:

* **Ombudsperson for Gender Equality (Croatia):** Judges and state attorneys from Croatia will be trained to address existing barriers to effective legal protection of women who are victims of violence.
* **Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson (Lithuania):** Health care, social work and child care professionals in Lithuania will be trained to broaden their knowledge and awareness of violence against women, whilst victims will be empowered.
* **Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (Portugal):** Education, social security, justice and security professionals from Portugal will learn how to recognise sexual violence as a form of violence in intimate relationships.

More information about the year of focused actions is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/2017-European-Year-of-focused-action-to-fight-violence-against-women).

**Equinet focus on combating violence against women**

As part of its 2017 Work Plan, Equinet is carrying out a **project to Combat Violence against Women and Gender Based Violence.** The project will allow members to look at new challenges and opportunities presented by the EU’s proposed accession to the Istanbul Convention as it applies to equality bodies. Cooperation with international partners and civil society (such as the European coalition to end violence against women and girls) is foreseen.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Policy developments

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| **Bilderesultat for Antonio TajaniThe European Parliament elects new President**  **Antonio Tajani** was elected president of the **European Parliament** on 17 January, succeeding Martin Schulz. Tajani, an Italian member of the centre-right **European People’s Party (EPP)** group and Vice-President of the Parliament, received 351 votes in the fourth and final round of voting. His term in office will end in 2019, when the next elections for the European Parliament will be held.  Antonio Tajani succeeds Martin Schulz (S&D, Germany). His election is part of the regular procedure of electing the EP President and all Vice-Presidents every two years and a half.  ILGA-Europe [ILGA-Europe](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/tajani-on-course-presidency) expressed its concerns regarding Tajani’s elections, due to his endorsement of the Novae Terrae’s pledge, which calls for an EU Roadmap on rights of families according to Members’ states “moral and religious” values.  More information is available [here](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170113STO58069/who's-who-overview-of-the-people-in-charge-of-parliament). |

**European Pillar of Social Rights: work in progress**

**The Commission prepares next steps towards European Pillar of Social Rights**

On January 23 the European Commission took a further step towards establishing a **European Pillar of Social Rights** with a **high level conference** in Brussels.

The European Commission also announced it would co-host an EU “Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth” together with the Swedish Prime Minister Löfven in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017.

**More information about the European Pillar of Social Rights is available** [**here**](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1226&langId=en)**.**

**The European Parliament adopts resolution on the European Pillar of Social Rights**

In the resolution, MEPs call on the European Commission to adopt strong EU-wide rules on decent working conditions for all forms of employment, including on-demand work or intermediated by digital platforms. More information is available [here](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/de/news-room/20170113IPR58040/european-social-rights-workers%E2%80%99-protection-needs-to-be-extended-to-new-jobs).

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| https://idfi.ge/public/upload/Meri/Tedo%20Gogokhia/e_c_h_r.jpg**European Court of Human Rights’ results for 2016**  At the annual press conference of the Court on 26 January 2017, President Guido Raimondi took stock of the year 2016 and reported that the volume of incoming cases, after falling over the previous two years, had **considerably increased.**  The increasing number of cases is the result of the situation in Hungary and Romania, for complaints about **detention conditions**, and Turkey, especially since the dramatic attempted coup d’état in July 2016.  The report includes an overview of important cases from 2017, including cases concerning discrimination (ECHR article 14). The report also informs that an update of the **Handbook on European non-discrimination** law is being prepared by the Court and will be launched in the second half of 2017. More information is available [here](http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/president-raimondi-presents-the-european-court-of-human-rights-results-for-2016). |

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT** **ERA – Academy of European Law – Seminar on EU Anti-Discrimination Law**

The seminar will deal with EU Anti-Discrimination Directives 2000/78 and 2000/43. It will take place in Trier, Germany on [**18& 19 September 2017**](https://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?_SID=9d8bfe09eaa09b989d744025b8a5baaed6388c5600520783067151&_sprache=en&_bereich=artikel&_aktion=detail&idartikel=126493) (English/German) *(Deadline for registering: 19th July 2017)*

**EVENT** **ERA – Academy of European Law – Applying the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**

The seminar will take place in Dublin, Ireland on [**13 & 14 March 2017**](https://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?_SID=a7b362e6b25819a8b9472b67055988d9c8c53ed100522193105843&_sprache=de&_bereich=artikel&_aktion=detail&idartikel=126632) (English) - Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES European Commission** - [Action grants to support national or transnational projects on non-discrimination and Roma integration](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rdis-disc-ag-2016.html) *(Deadline: 21st March 2017)*

**Note: If you are planning to apply for this call and are looking for partners among other national equality bodies, please contact Jessica Machacova** – [jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org](mailto:jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org))

**PUBLICATION European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination** [- A comparative analysis of non-discrimination law in Europe 2016](http://www.equalitylaw.eu/downloads/3987-a-comparative-analyses-of-non-discrimination-law-in-europe-2016-pdf-1-2-mb)

**PUBLICATION European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)** [- Annual Conclusions for 2016](https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/european-committee-of-social-rights-ecsr-published-its-annual-conclusions-for-2016)

**PUBLICATION European Commission** - [2017 EU Citizenship Report: Commission promotes rights, values and democracy](http://ec.europa.eu/news/2017/01/20170124_en.htm)

# GENDER EQUALITY

## Policy developments

**European Parliament: the FEMM Committee elects new Chair**

On 25th January, the FEMM Committee (Women’s Rights and Gender Equality) elected its new chair for the next two and a half years. Vilija Blinkevičiūtė is a Socialist MEP from Lithuania. She succeeds Iraxte Garcia Perez, Socialist MEP from Spain.

**2017: The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) focuses on gender equality in education**

In 2017, EIGE is putting the spotlight on gender equality in education. With three new studies already underway, EIGE is delving into the classroom to unearth some of the gender related challenges in education.

1. **Gender related challenges in education**: To find out the main challenges, EIGE is consulting with experts and policy makers in all EU Member States. The aim is to provide policy and decision makers with guidelines and recommendations on how to strengthen the value of gender equality in and through education systems.

2. **Gender segregation in tertiary education, training and the labour market:** This study is being prepared at the request of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU (2017) and the results will be available in November 2017.

3. **Gender, skills and precarious jobs in the EU:** Research note for the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU (2017). It will be available in May 2017.

Read more [here](http://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/eige-takes-depth-look-gender-equality-classroom).

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| Résultat de recherche d'images pour "council of europe"**The Council of Europe combatting sexist hate speech**  Sexist hate speech relates to expressions which spread, incite, promote or justify hatred based on sex. Some groups of women, such as young women, women in the media or women politicians, are particularly targeted by sexist hate speech. However, every woman and girl is a potential target for online and offline sexist hate speech. The increasing availability and use of Internet and social platforms have contributed to growing occurrences of sexist hate speech.  The Council of Europe has started to address sexist hate speech by looking at the potential use of existing standards and at policies on combating gender stereotypes. On the [CoE webpage](http://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/sexist-hate-speech), you can find:   * A Background note on sexist hate speech (2016) * Information about the CoE Platform to monitor threats against women journalists * A factsheet on Combating Sexist Hate Speech * Information about the upcoming CoE Seminar on the issue (10-12 February, Strasbourg, France) |

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION European Parliament** – [Opposition to reproductive rights in Europe](Defending%20sexual%20and%20reproductive%20rights%20in%20Europe)

**PUBLICATION** **European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination** [- Gender Equality Law in Europe - How are EU rules transposed into national law in 2016?](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=52878)

**PUBLICATION** **Council of Europe - Gender Equality Commission -** [Implementation of the Council of Europe](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806eeb7b)

[Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 - Annual report 2016](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806eeb7b)

# RACE & ETHNIC ORIGIN

## Policy developments

**27 January marks the Holocaust Remembrance Day**

On the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on **27 January 2017,** victims of the Holocaust were commemorated.

The day commemorates the genocide that resulted in the death of an estimated 6 million Jewish people, 200,000 Romani people, 250,000 mentally and physically disabled people, and 9,000 homosexual men by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

Read the statements of [European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-17-148_en.htm) and [Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland.](http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/27-january-holocaust-remembrance-day)

# SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

## Policy developments

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| http://www.europarl.europa.eu/downloadcentre/sites/europarl.europa.eu.downloadcentre/files/styles/epa_category_image/public/media/EP%20logo%20RGB_EN_0.png?itok=aOz0KQXC**European Parliament demands action on EU-wide recognition of adoptions**  On 2 February, the European Parliament adopted a report demanding the automatic recognition of domestic adoption orders across EU Member States. The report stipulates that the recognition should happen without discrimination, including on the basis of the parents’ **sexual orientation.**  [Read the report here.](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bREPORT%2bA8-2016-0370%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN) |

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT** **Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU–** [High Level Ministerial Conference on LGBTIQ Road Map](https://www.eu2017.mt/en/Events/Pages/High-Level-Ministerial-Conference-on-LGBTIQ-Road-Map.aspx) – 23rd February 2017 - Malta

# DISABILITY

## Policy developments

**European Parliament presents implementation report of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020**

On 2 February the European Commission presented its [Progress Report](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2725&furtherNews=yes) on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

The Strategy is the main instrument to support the EU's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). It covers 8 areas: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health and external action.

Among the main achievements, the report highlights the [Directive on Web Accessibility](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/node/373), the proposal of [European Accessibility Act](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1202) and the [EU Disability Card project](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1139&langId=en).

The full progress report is accessible [here](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2725&furtherNews=yes).

**Publications, funding opportunities and events**

**PUBLICATION** **UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities** [- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/436/64/PDF/G1643664.pdf?OpenElement)

In her report, the Special Rapporteur provides an overview of the activities undertaken in 2016, as well as a thematic study on access to support by persons with disabilities.

**EVENT** **ERA – Academy of European Law – Seminar on EU Disability Law and UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities**

The aim of the seminar is to provide participants with the necessary knowledge and legal tools to use the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) combined with the relevant EU law in their daily practice. The seminar will take place in Trier, Germany on the [**27 & 28 March 2017**](https://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?_SID=29c018f2444afa220a64d9d3b3a4e2a8f67a63f100522176340655&_sprache=en&_bereich=artikel&_aktion=detail&idartikel=126674) (English/German) - Deadline for registering: 17 February 2017

# ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

## Policy developments

**The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights publishes legal opinion on the fundamental rights impact of the proposed revision of the Eurodac Regulation on children**

The European Commission has proposed revising the Eurodac Regulation to expand the scope so it can also be used to control irregular immigration and movement within the EU. Facial images and personal data would also be stored instead of just fingerprints and basic data such as gender and Member State. Personal data would also be kept for longer (five years) and the age for capturing data from children would be lowered from 14 to 6.

The legal opinion is available [here](http://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2017/impact-proposal-revised-eurodac-regulation-fundamental-rights?_cldee=amVzc2ljYS5tYWNoYWNvdmFAZXF1aW5ldGV1cm9wZS5vcmc%3D&recipientid=contact-7035426c53c2e4119de700155d040d18-5ca8d61af86f4b98ac06ec97460ec8b2&esid=c3477d73-57e2-e611-80ce-00155d040a3b&urlid=0).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES European Commission** - [Fast track integration into the labour market for third country nationals targeting exclusively asylum seekers, refugees and their family members](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=502&furtherCalls=yes) - **Deadline: 30 March 2017**

**EVENT The Migration Conference 2017** will take place in Athens from **23 to 26 August**. Scholars, experts, policy makers and PhD students carrying out research in the field of migration can submit papers or posters until **28 March 2017** - [Call for papers for the Migration Conference 2017.](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/greece-call-for-papers-for-the-migration-conference-2017)

# RECENT CASE-LAW

## European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

[**A.H. and Others v. Russia - 17 January 2017**](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"fulltext":["A.H. and Others v. Russia"],"documentcollectionid2":["GRANDCHAMBER","CHAMBER"],"itemid":["001-170390"]})

The applications were brought by 45 US nationals: both on their own behalf, and on behalf of 27 Russian children. In late 2012, the US applicants had been in the final stages of procedures to adopt the Russian children, many of whom required specialist medical care. However, after a Russian law had been passed which banned adoptions of Russians by US nationals, all of these procedures were abruptly halted. The applicants complained that the ban had violated their right to family life, that it had been discriminatory, and that it had amounted to ill treatment of the children.

**Conclusion: Violation of article 8 (Family life) and 14 (Discrimination).**

[**Király and Dömötör v. Hungary – 17 January 2017**](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"fulltext":["Király and Dömötör"],"itemid":["001-170391"]})

The case concerned an anti-Roma demonstration. Király and Dömötör – both of whom are of Roma origin – alleged that the police had failed to protect them from racist abuse during the demonstration and to properly investigate the incident. The Court found that the authorities failed to protect the applicants.

**Conclusion: Violation of article 8 (Private life).**

[**Khamtokhu and Aksenchik v. Russia – 24 January 2017**](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"itemid":["001-170343"]})

The applicants alleged that, as adult males serving life sentences for a number of serious criminal offences, they had been discriminated against as compared to other categories of convicts – women, persons under 18 when their offence had been committed or over 65 when the verdict had been delivered – who were exempt from life imprisonment by operation of the law.

**Conclusion:  No violation.**